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Letter dated 22 November 2000 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

I wish to refer to the note verbale dated 13 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations addressed to me, containing his Government's request that the current mandate of the United Nations Political Office in Bougainville (UNPOB), which is due to expire on 31 December 2000, be extended by a further 12 months (see annex). The United Nations Office in Bougainville has also informed me that the Bougainville parties to the Lincoln Agreement concur with this request of the Papua New Guinea Government.

I am encouraged that there has been slow but steady progress in the Bougainville peace process. The parties are continuing their political talks on a final agreement and are engaged in technical discussions on a variety of issues as well. The presence of UNPOB as an impartial observer, as well as its facilitating role during these talks, has contributed to a constructive engagement of the parties in the peace process. Until a final agreement is reached, the United Nations Political Office in Bougainville will continue to play a useful role in facilitating the implementation of such activities as weapons disposal, restoration of civil authority, reconstruction and development, as provided for in the Lincoln Agreement.

I would therefore be my intention to extend the presence of UNPOB by a further 12 months, so that it can continue to perform the functions spelled out in the Lincoln Agreement and assist in the promotion of political dialogue among the parties aimed at moving the peace process further and in the planning and implementation of peace-building activities.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

00-77560 (E) 011200

Annex

Note verbale dated 13 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, has the honour of referring to the letter dated 31 March 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1998/287), and has the further honour of informing the Secretary-General that the Government of Papua New Guinea has decided to request the Council to extend the mandate of the United Nations Political Office in Bougainville for another term of 12 calendar months commencing on 1 January 2001.